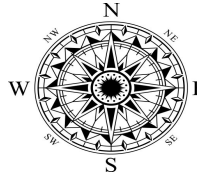

THE VETERANS COMPASS

AUGUST 2026 EDITION

Visit the Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.



NEED IMMEDIATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE? KNOW YOUR COMPACT ACT BENEFITS

The COMPACT Act helps veterans get free, immediate mental health care during a crisis, including suicide prevention services. You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care or visit a VA facility to receive care. You may qualify if you served at least 24 months of active duty; served as a reservist with more than 100 days in a combat exclusion or contingency operation, including supporting combat missions by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) from another location; experienced sexual assault, sexual battery, or sexual harassment during military service; and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Those enrolled in VA health care should inform emergency department staff upon arrival. Those not enrolled should also notify staff, as VA can still provide emergency mental health care and determine eligibility for COMPACT Act services following evaluation in a VA emergency department.

Anyone experiencing a mental health crisis should call the Veterans Crisis Line for free, confidential support 24/7 by dialing **988 and pressing 1**, or by **texting 838255**.

References: <https://www.va.gov/cincinnati-health-care/stories/what-does-compact-act-mean-for-veterans/> and VA.gov

Appointments Highly Encouraged

Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office

Website: www.manitowoccountywi.gov

Facebook: Manitowoc County Veterans Services

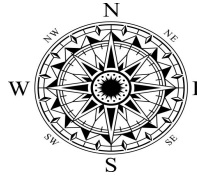
Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: **920.683.4055**

THE VETERANS COMPASS

Visit the Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.



VA Priority Groups: What Veterans and Families Need to Know

When you enroll in VA health care, you'll be assigned to one of **eight Priority Groups**. Your priority group determines **your enrollment priority and whether you'll pay copays** for health care and prescriptions. If you qualify for more than one group, the VA places you in the **highest group** for which you're eligible.

Veterans with **service-connected disabilities (especially those rated 50% or higher)**, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and certain special eligibility groups receive the highest priority and generally pay little or nothing for VA health care.

Veterans who qualify because of **combat service, toxic exposures, low income, or VA pension benefits** may also receive enhanced access to care with reduced costs.

Veterans in **Priority Groups 7 and 8** are generally those with higher household incomes who don't qualify for a higher group. They may still enroll in VA health care but typically pay more in copays.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can my priority group change?

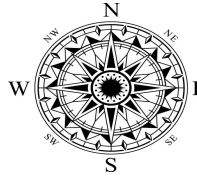
Yes. A change in your disability rating, income, or eligibility—such as qualifying for a new presumptive condition—may place you in a higher priority group.

Does my spouse receive the same priority group?

No. Priority Groups apply only to Veterans. Eligible spouses may qualify for separate VA health care programs, such as CHAMPVA.

THE VETERANS COMPASS

Visit the Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Bottom line: Your priority group helps determine **what you pay—not the quality of care you receive**. If your circumstances change, contact the VA or a Veterans Service Officer to see if you qualify for a higher priority group.

Community Care

When the VA can't provide the care you need, eligible Veterans may receive treatment from approved community health care providers. Eligibility depends on factors such as your medical needs, the availability of VA services, and whether you meet the VA's community care requirements.

Urgent Care in the Community

Eligible Veterans can receive treatment for minor illnesses and injuries, such as colds, ear infections, sprains, or strep throat, at participating VA or in-network community urgent care clinics without prior authorization. To qualify, you must be enrolled in VA health care and have received VA or VA-authorized community care within the past 24 months. Before visiting, confirm the clinic is part of the VA's community care network.

Emergency Care

If you're experiencing a medical or mental health emergency, don't wait—call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room immediately. You do not need VA approval before seeking emergency care, but the VA must be notified within **72 hours** so it can coordinate your care and determine eligibility for payment.

Reporting Emergency Treatment to the VA

After receiving emergency care, make sure the VA is notified within 72 hours. Your emergency provider, a family member, caregiver, or even you can report the visit through the VA's Emergency Care Reporting system or by calling **844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)**. Only one notification is required, and timely reporting helps the VA coordinate follow-up care and process payment for eligible services.

References: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/priority-groups/> and WDVA

Retiree Appreciation Day Events 2026

Date: **11 September 2026**

Location: **Building 905**

Fort McCoy, WI



Save the Date

MANITOWOC COUNTY

VETERANS

BANQUET

Saturday | **NOVEMBER 14, 2026**

at

SEVEN LAKES GOLF

IN REEDSVILLE



SOCIAL STARTS
AT 5:00PM



PROGRAM STARTS
AT 6:00PM



DINNER STARTS
AT 6:30PM



Honoring All Who Served





**MILWAUKEE BREWERS
SUNDAY HOME GAMES
2 FREE TERRACE RESERVED
TICKETS AT
BOX OFFICE DAY OF GAME
BOX OFFICE 414.902.4000**



SUMMER EVENTS

Veterans/Military/Families

June 4-6

PrideFest free admission all weekend military/ veteran only

June 12-14

Polish Fest free admission all weekend military/ veteran only

June 27

Summerfest free admission Noon-6PM military/ veteran +4

July 24

German Fest Military Appreciation Day \$5 admission for everyone

July 24-26

German Fest free admission active military/veterans all weekend +1 all weekend

August 9

Wisconsin State Fair free admission before 4PM military/veteran +3; daily discounted admission for veteran is \$13.00

August 13-16

Irish Fest free admission all weekend active military +1

August 16

Irish Fest free admission military/veteran +1, stop by the Onóir Lookout

August 21

Mexican Fiesta free admission Noon-3PM for the general public

August 22-23

Mexican Fiesta free admission Noon-1PM military/veteran only



2026

Acceptable forms of Identification:

Active military ID
Retired military ID
VA health ID card
Veteran ID card (VIC)
Drivers License w/veteran
designation
DD Form 214
NGB 22/23
Membership card for
veteran organization

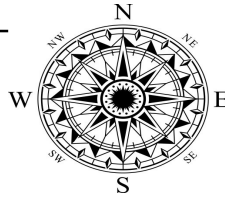


SUMMERFEST
June 18-20 • June 25-27 • July 2-4, 2026



THE VETERANS COMPASS

Visit the Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.

HELPFUL INTERNET LINKS

Army Retirement Services

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Army Echoes Newsletter

<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

Navy Retirement Services

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Culture-Resilience/Retired-Activities/>

Navy Shift Colors Newsletter

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Media-Center/Publications/Shift-Colors/>

Coast Guard Retirement Services

<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/#guides>

Coast Guard Evening Colors Newsletter

<https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=070-16&category=us-coast-guard>

Marines Corps Community Services

<https://www.usmc-mccs.org/>

Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Newsletter

<https://www.hqmc.marines.mil/Portals/61/Docs/MMSR-6/VOL%2068%20NO%201%20JAN-MAR%202024.pdf?ver=Nq8WHpeVos4uiuXQntpB8A%3d%3d>

Air Forces Retirement Services

<https://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Air Force Afterburner Newsletter

www.retirees.af.mil/library/afterburner

My Army Benefits

<https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

My Air Force Benefits

www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS Enrollment & ID Card Issuing Facilities)

idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

Social Security Administration (SSA)

www.ssa.gov

Space Available Travel (Space-A)

www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

www.tsp.gov

TRICARE

tricare.mil

U.S. Army Human Resource Command Fort Knox (HRC)

www.hrc.army.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Administration (VA)

www.va.gov

Appointments Highly Encouraged

Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office

Website: www.manitowocountywi.gov

Facebook: Manitowoc County Veterans Services

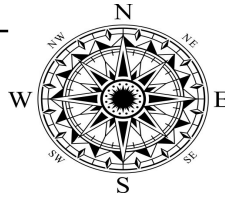
Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: 920.683.4055

THE VETERANS COMPASS

Visit the Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.

HELPFUL INTERNET LINKS

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)

www.dfas.mil

eBenefits

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>

Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy)

www.express-scripts.com

Federal Long Term Care Insurance

www.ltcfeds.com

Fort McCoy Homepage

<https://home.army.mil/mccoy>

Life Insurance (SGLI, TSGLI, VGLI)

www.benefits.va.gov/insurance

Military Service and Social Security (*Social Security Administration*)

<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>

Military Eyeglasses

<https://www.med.navy.mil/Naval-Medical-Readiness-Logistics-Command/Naval-Ophthalmic-Readiness-Activity/Ordering/How-to-Order-Retiree/>

Military Funeral Honors (*Military One Source*)

www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/military-funeral-honors-directory/

Military Living Publications

www.militaryliving.com

Military OneSource—financial, legal, health & wellness assistance and much more

www.militaryonesource.mil

Military Personnel Records Request

www.archives.gov

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

www.shopmyexchange.com

Army Retired Pin & Decal

www.shopmyexchange.com - type Army Retired in the search box

Burial & Memorial Benefits (*VA National Cemetery Administration*)

www.cem.va.gov

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - (DFAS)

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html>

Concurrent Retired Disability Pay (CRDP) - (DFAS)

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html>

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

www.benefeds.com

Appointments Highly Encouraged

Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office

Website: www.manitowocountywi.gov

Facebook: Manitowoc County Veterans Services

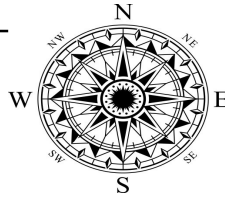
Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: 920.683.4055

THE VETERANS COMPASS

Visit The Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office



Find Your Direction. Claim Your Benefits.

**Military
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



Confidential chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net** or text to **838255**

Suicide & Crisis Hotline

Call 988 or Text 988



Línea de Prevención del Suicidio y Crisis

1-888-628-9454

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Call 800-799-SAFE (7233)

Trained expert advocates are available 24/7 to provide confidential support to anyone experiencing domestic violence or seeking resources and information. Help is available in Spanish and other languages.

Lifeline Options For Deaf + Hard of Hearing For TTY Users

Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.



National Sexual Assault Hotline

Call 800-656-HOPE (4673)

Connect with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area that offers access to a range of free services. Crisis chat support is available at Online Hotline. Free help, 24/7.



Appointments Highly Encouraged

Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office

Website: www.manitowocountywi.gov

Facebook: Manitowoc County Veterans Services

Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: 920.683.4055